XVII. *Additional Observations on the British Species of Carex.* By the
Rev. Samuel Goodenough, LL. D. F. R. S. Tr. L. S.

Read January 6, 1795.

IT was not to be expected that, in treating on this subject, I could at once collect every article of information necessary to be mentioned, or that I could be aware of all the minute variations which take place from soil, from situation, and from climate, in such a variable genus as *Carex* is. In my former paper * I endeavoured to notice as many of these as I could without being troublesome from unreasonable minuteness.

Some general perplexities of this sort will present themselves to all accurate observers,—such as respect the length of the foliaceous *bractææ*, which are scarcely in any one species absolutely constant—the appearance of male flowers in the female spikes—the proportion of the peduncle of the female spikes, which in some species is for the most part sessile, and yet at times is found of very considerable length, as happens particularly in *C. flava*,—and the division of the capsules at the summit, which in many species are for the most part closed, and yet not unfrequently are found divided:—all these matters must be submitted to the taste and judgment of naturalists, who may be disposed to study the subject with candour. I have stated *axillaris* as having the capsule divided at the summit,

* Linn. Transf. vol. ii. p. 126.

and *remota*, as having it entire; but this is not constant. I believe all *Carices* dispose of their seeds by the opening of the point of their capsule. This opening is observable in some very early, in others not till quite old. In the former, the capsule is described as opening; in the latter, because it is not seen but in very advanced age, it is mentioned as closed.

When I inserted *C. fulva* as a distinct species, I did it in consequence of a variety of specimens sent me by my friend Mr. Williams; all of which being nearly the same as that represented in the figure given in my former paper, and entirely corresponding with my foreign specimens, all of the same growth and form, I concluded that I had nothing further to discover. Mr. Williams has since that sent me specimens of more forward growth, which prove it to be a variety of *C. flava*. In the figure of my former paper, it is represented with three female spikes; it very seldom has more than two. I would wish therefore to correct the article of *C. fulva*, and make it a variety of *C. flava*.

C. flava—Var. β , spicis foemineis duabus.

In my former paper, p. 209, I spoke very indeterminately about a *Carex* given me by the late Rev. Mr. Lightfoot. All the spikes in those specimens being androgynous, I imagined them to be *axillaris*: however, my friend Mr. Pitchford of Norwich has lately sent me specimens of more complete growth, and I am now convinced that they belong to *C. extensa*. Mr. Pitchford acquaints me, that they were found by the Rev. Mr. Bryant, near Cley, in Norfolk, in very dry sandy ground. He tells me, that Mr. Bryant sent specimens to Mr. Lightfoot; most probably, therefore, those which I received from him were sent him by Mr. Bryant. I understood at the time, that Mr. Lightfoot had found them in Scotland; but as I had no intention of writing upon the subject, it is very possible that I was
not

not so accurate as I ought to have been in ascertaining its place of growth.

The specimens of *C. extensa* which I found grew in wet places, were large, and very decidedly of the order *spicis sexu distinctis*. Those sent me by Mr. Pitchford, from their dry situation, are from two to nine inches high; some have no male spike at all, and some have the male spike with a few female flowers at the base; but the capsules and the squamæ retain their characteristic form.

I have the pleasure of adding another hitherto unknown species to my division,

Spicis sexu distinctis: Masculâ unicâ: bracteis foliaceis & plerumque vaginantibus.

38. CAREX PULLA. TAB. 14.

C. Digyna, vaginis nullis, spicis ovatis, inferiori pedunculatâ, capsulis ovatis mucronatis, mucrone bifurco.

Habitat in montibus Scoticis. *D. Dickson.*

Radix crassa repens. *Folia* angusta erectiuscula ad margines carinamque aspera, culmo plerumque breviora, modo æquant, interdum exsuperant. *Culmus* suberectus circiter dodrantalis, triqueter, angulis acutis scabriusculis. *Spicæ*, una mascula, duæ foemineæ remotæ. Spica mascula terminalis oblonga femuncialis fulva, squamis oblongo-ovatis acutiusculis, nervo obsoletiusculo. Spica foeminea superior sub-sessilis subrotunda, bracteâ brevi membranaceâ aphyllâ nigrâ, ovatâ acutâ nervo dorsali viridi; inferior sub-ovalis pedunculata, pedunculo tenui spicâ suâ longiori. Ad basin pedunculi, bractea foliacea, culmo brevior vix ac ne vix pedunculum amplectens, utrinque ad basin auriculata, auriculâ parvâ subrotundâ. Squamæ ut in

Linn. Trans. III. tab. 14. p. 78.

C. pulla

spicâ masculâ, sed nigricantes, capsulis paulo breviores. *Capsulæ* glabræ ovatæ inflatiusculæ compressiusculæ obtusæ mucronatæ, mucrone brevi furcato, mox nigræ. *Filamenta* ut in cæteris. *Stylus* stigmatibus duobus crassiusculis villosis.

Obs. Variat spicis duabus, unâ masculâ, alterâ fœmineâ. Est ubi duæ spicæ masculæ occurrunt. Interdum spica terminalis androgyna evadit.

My catalogue of the British species of *Carex* is enriched with this valuable plant through the active spirit of Mr. Dickson. Its having flowers with only two styles, at once unites it with *Cæspitosa*, *stricta* & *rigida*; but its lowermost spike having a long peduncle, and the capsules being mucronated, with a point bifid and somewhat forked, keep it distinct from either of them. When it has only one female spike, it falls in very readily with the Linnean description of *C. globularis*. But that species is taller and slenderer, and besides has rough villous capsules—this perfectly smooth; a mark of the most decisive discrimination.

The specimens of various new plants, and especially of cryptogamous ones discovered in Scotland, either by Mr. Dickson personally, or by persons incited by him, give us well-grounded hopes, that the present laudable spirit of research in that country will in its progress bring still new subjects to light; a circumstance at all times redounding to the honour of any country and any discoverer.

My friend Mr. Davies has informed me, that *Carex filiformis* is to be met with in the Isle of Anglesea, in the parish of Landegfan, on a swampy spot, lying S. W. of Park Pool.

C. muricata, var. β , which perhaps is not a common plant, grows near Eaton, in Shropshire, in the banks of the driest ditches, as I am informed by my friend Mr. Williams. So singular a habitation deserves notice. Var. α always prefers moist meadows.